

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /106 W
----- 099634

R 020955Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6232

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, KS, KN, JA

SUBJECT: ROK PRESS REPORTS SATO'S COMMENTS ON KIMURA STATEMENT

1. ROK PRESS COVERAGE OF FORMER JAPANESE PRIMIN SATO'S SEPTEMBER 29 ASAHI INTERVIEW HAS HIGHLIGHTED SATO'S REPORTED CRITICISM OF FONMIN KIMURA'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON JAPAN-KOREA RELATIONS. UNDER HEADLINES READING "SATO REFUTES KIMURA STATEMENT ON NORTH KOREAN THREAT", PAPERS SEPTEMBER 30 AND OCTOBER 1 CARRIED LOWER FRONT PAGE STORIES REPORTING THAT SATO HAD DISAGREED BOTH WITH KIMURA'S AUGUST 29 COMMENT THAT THERE IS NO THREAT TO ROK FROM NORTH KOREA AND KIMURA'S LATER INTIMATION THAT 1969 NIXON-SATO STATEMENT SHOULD BE REVISED TO EFFECT THAT SECURITY OF KOREAN PENINSULA, NOT JUST ROK, IS ESSENTIAL TO JAPANESE SECURITY.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, SATO SAID IT IS NATURAL THAT SOUTH KOREAN PEOPLE GOT ANGRY OVER KIMURA'S DENIAL OF A THREAT FROM THE NORTH, WHEN THE NORTH HAD LAREADY ONCE ATTACKED THE SOUTH AND IS NOW ENGAGED IN PROVOCATIONS AGAINST THE ROK. HE ALSO GAVE HIS VIEW THAT JAPAN SHOULD NOT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES FOLLOW A POLICY OF EQUAL TREATMENT FOR THE TWO KOREAS.

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3. SEVERAL ROK PAPERS CARRIED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
FROM THE INTERVIEW ON VARIETY OF OTHER SUBJECTS,
INCLUDING PROFESSOR COHEN'S ALLEGATIONS RE
CURRUPTION (TOKYO 12754), KIM TAE CHUNG AND MUN SE KWANG
CASES, AND ROK DOMESTIC SITUATION, BUT ARTICLES FOCUSED
MAINLY ON SATO'S REBUTTAL OF KIMURA STATEMENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, THREATS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL06542
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740278-0902
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741079/aaaacppt.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK PRESS REPORTS SATO'S COMMENTS ON KIMURA STATEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, JA, (SATO), (KIMURA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005